

RESTRICTED

Chief, F.B.I.B.

5 October 1948

Chief, Field Division

Communications from London Bureau

1. On 14 July 1948 Colonel Guest, of Army Communications Service, requested that F.B.I.B. make every effort to reduce its traffic from Frankfurt to Washington for the ensuing six weeks to permit rehabilitation of ACS facilities. Traffic originating at Caversham was accordingly reduced from an average of 29,000 words per day to 27,000 words immediately.

2. On about 15 August 1948 Colonel Guest made a further request for reduction of traffic for the ensuing 3 to 4 weeks, indicating that no significant reduction had previously been observed. He was informed that the file had been reduced by 2,000 words daily, but that if necessary F.B.I.B. would use commercial facilities for an additional 3,000 words daily. Colonel Guest said that it would not be necessary to resort to commercial channels if F.B.I.B. would only make all effort to hold traffic to the minimum.

3. On 15 September 1948, in response to an inquiry from F.B.I.B. through Mr. Coffey of Communications Division, Colonel Guest informed that it would no longer be necessary to keep traffic to a reduced volume.

4. During the period since 15 July 1948 the ACAN relay to Frankfurt has refused F.B.I.B. traffic from London with increasing frequency. Since 13 August 1948 outages have occurred almost daily, with duration varying from a few minutes to 12 hours. In consequence, F.B.I.B. London is actually able to file a sharply decreasing volume of traffic via ACAN circuits, as illustrated by the following daily averages:

1948	Via Signals	Via WV	Total
July	26,700	650	27,350
August	19,250	3,850	23,100
September	17,850	6,750	24,600

5. F.B.I.B. coverage is suffering severely, not only from the reduction in total volume, but even more from the irregularity,

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uncertainty and delays consequent upon continual interruption of service. In addition, the cost of commercial service between London and Washington during the past two months has totaled more than \$15,000, approximately double the amount provided by the budget for a 60-day period.

6. It is recommended that efforts be made to obtain a commitment from AOS as to date resumption of normal service can be expected, with a view to initiating exploration of other communications channels if satisfactory AOS service does not appear to be assured.



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